REMARKS

Applicants have amended their claims in order to further clarify the definition of various aspects of the present invention. Specifically, Applicants have amended claim 24 to correct a typographical error, and have added new claim 29 to the application. Claim 29, dependent on claim 19, recites that the Cu₂O phase is in the form of particles dispersed in the composite material.

The election-of-species requirement set forth in Item 2 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action mailed August 11, 2004, is noted. Consistent with the requirement therein, Applicants respectfully elect Embodiment I, which the Examiner indicates has claims 19-24 reading thereon. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 29 also reads on Embodiment I, such that, of the claims presently in the application, claims 19-24 and 29 read on the elected species.

Especially in view of new claim 29, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the election-of-species requirement, and consider herein on the merits all claims presently in the above-identified application.

Examination of the claims reading on Embodiment I (that is, claims 19-24 and 29), in due course, is respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135

(Case No. 503.38171X00), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

William I. Solomor Reg. No. 28,565

1300 North Seventeenth Street, Suite 1800

Arlington, Virginia 22209 Telephone: (703) 312-6600 Facsimile: (703) 312-6666

WIS/sjg